





ONCE UPON A TIME I WAS A KITTEN, AND AS
SO OFTEN HAPPENS WITH KITTENS I WAS
ORPHANED EARLY ON, SO I WENT OUT TO
"SEEK MY FORTUNE", WHATEVER THAT MEANS

Housepets!

The Maxwell
Thing



KNOCK KNOCK



EXCUSE ME, SIR OR MADAM, COULD YOU
PROVIDE SOME HELP TO A POOR AND
WANDERING KITTEN IN THIS CRUEL, CRUEL
WORLD?

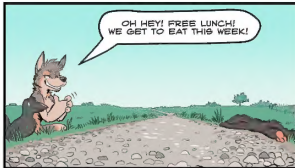
GET A JOB,
YA BUM!



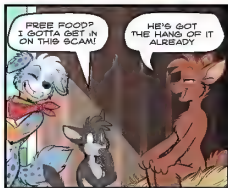
I HAVE A VARIETY OF CAPTIONS
TO ASSIST IN POSTING CUTE PICTURES
OF ME TO THE INTERNET

HAWWW...





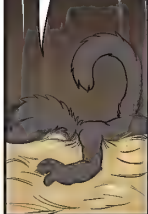




SO, I'D BEEN THERE
A COUPLE DAYS...

I'M A TERRIBLE
MOUSER

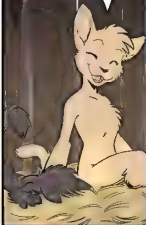
MY EVERYTHING ACHES
AND I HAVEN'T EATEN
ANYTHING ALL DAY



OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT
IT MAXIE, IT TAKES TIME TO
GET GOOD AT ANYTHING

YOU'RE STILL A KITTEN!

I COULD BARELY CATCH
MICE WHEN I WAS
YOUR AGE

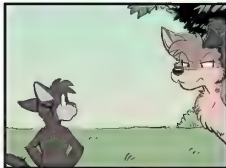
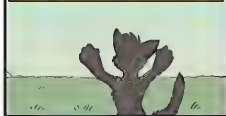


SO IT'S A COMMON
EXPERIENCE THAT I
WOKE UP THIS MORNING
WITH A BELL AROUND
MY NECK

THAT...
MIGHT BE
CONCERNING



WELL IT HAD BEEN THREE WEEKS AND
I DECIDED THE WORKING LIFE WASN'T
FOR ME, SO THERE I WAS AGAIN, READY
TO TACKLE THE WORLD ON MY OWN!



I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE
RUN FOR THE BARN, BUT IN
MY HURRY I'D ASSUMED, AS
AN ORPHAN OF THE WORLD,
I WAS ALREADY GONE AND
OUT OF THEIR LIVES



OR YOU DIDN'T THINK
OF IT AT THE TIME

GRAPE, WHO IS
TELLING THE STORY



DON'T SEE 'EM, HE GONE
AND DISAPPEARED!

UGH, HE
COULD HAVE
SPRINTED OFF
ANYWHERE...
YOU TAKE
THE HIGH ROAD
AND I'LL TAKE
THE LOW ROAD

ROGER
ROGER!



SO HAVING CLEVERLY OUTMANEUVERED
THE COYOTE, I PREPARED TO RUN BACK TO
THE FARM AS FAST AS MY LEGS COULD CARRY ME



WHICH, GIVEN I HAD BROKEN AN ANKLE,
TURNED OUT TO BE NO FAST







RUFUS,
I'M SCARED

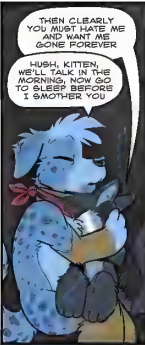
I KNOW, I'M SORRY,
JUST TRY AND SLEEP
AND WE'LL GO BACK
ONCE IT'S LIGHT OUT



I'M SORRY I TRIED
TO RUN AWAY, I'LL NEVER
RUN AGAIN AND I'LL BE
A GOOD BARN CAT
FOREVER...

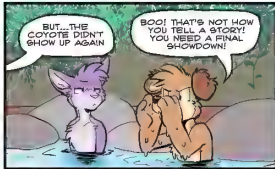
MAX, I DIDN'T
RESCUE YOU TO
FORCE YOU TO
WORK

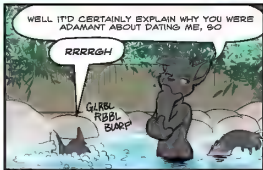
IF YOU DON'T
FEEL AT HOME
HERE, THEN WE
NEED TO FIND
YOU A PLACE
WHERE YOU DO



THEN CLEARLY
YOU MUST HATE ME
AND WANT ME
GONE FOREVER

HUSH, KITTEN,
WE'LL TALK IN THE
MORNING, NOW GO
TO SLEEP BEFORE
I SMOTHER YOU





I will
**CRUSH,
MAIM,
KILL, and
DESTROY**

*your feelings of
anxiety*



**LOVE IS ON
THE MENU!
ALSO HAIR**



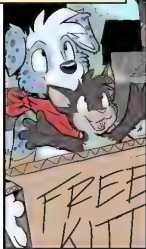
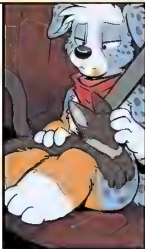
I wonder
how I can
get into
those
other
**Valentines
cards...**



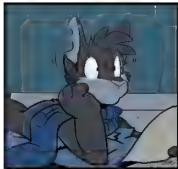
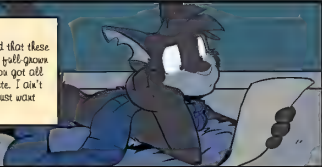


Dear Max,

It's been a few months since my last letter. I dunno if you'll ever reply to these, just wanted to know if you're getting along. I assume it's real nice where it is you are, otherwise, just give me a call and I'll come down and help you again. You don't hafta reply. I've got lots of things to busy myself anyway. Rufus

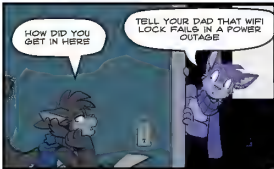


Dear Max,
Hope you're doing well and that these
letters reach you. You're a full-grown
cat by now, and I'm sure you got all
sorts of things on your plate. I ain't
gonna beg you to reply. I just want
you to live your life.



HOW DID YOU
GET IN HERE

TELL YOUR DAD THAT WIFI
LOCK FAILS IN A POWER
OUTAGE







RUFUS, I'M SORRY! I AM THE WORST,
MOST UNGRATEFUL CAT ON THE FACE
OF THE EARTH, AND THAT'S SAYING
SOMETHING

OH, IT'S FINE!
I HONESTLY
WASN'T TRYIN'
TA GUILT TRIP
YA

THINK IT JUST
CAME OUT
THAT WAY
WHEN YOU'RE
SOMEONE'S
FATHER
FIGURE



BUT YOU SAVED MY LIFE! TWICE!
MOST PEOPLE HAVE ONLY DONE
THAT ONCE

YOU'RE
WELCOME,
BY THE WAY

AND I ALREADY
KNOW YOU WERE GRATEFUL!



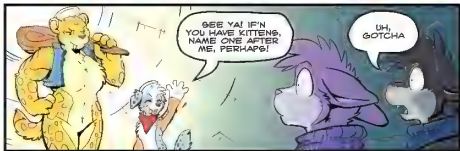
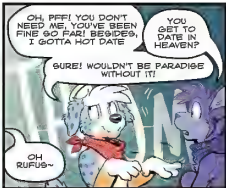
YOU DON'T GOTTA SPEND YOUR LIFE
LIKE YOU'RE PERPETUALLY IN DEBT,
YOU KNOW? THAT KINDA THING WEIGHS
HARD ON A KITTEN. I SAVED YOU TO
HELP YOU BE FREE, NOT FEEL THE
CONSTANT CRUSH OF OBLIGATION

I KNOW...



THOUGH IF
YOU'RE TAKING LIFE
ADVICE, YOU COULD
CUT BACK A BIT
ON THE CATNIP

DON'T TELL
ME HOW TO
LIVE MY LIFE!



SO, FEEL BETTER
AFTER SOME DIVINE
INTERVENTION?

YEAH,
BUT IT STILL
BOTHERS ME THAT
I DUG INTO MY
SOUL TO TELL
SOMETHING VERY
PERSONAL, BUT
NOBODY REALLY
CARES...



AND THE CROW
SWOOPED, ~~SCREE-AWW!~~
AND LITTLE MAXWELL DANGLED
FROM HER TALONS!

RUFUS YELLED, "MAX,
HANG ON!" AND MAX WAS
LIKE "NO I DON'T WANNA
HANG ON"

BUT WHILE RUFUS
WAS DISTRACTED IN
THAT BRIEF INSTANT,
THE COYOTE SLASHED
HIM! IN THE FACE!



WHAT IF YOUR DEEPLY PERSONAL
STORY WAS INSTEAD ADAPTED INTO
AN "INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS"
NINE-PART EPIC MINISERIES?

I CAN
LIVE WITH
THAT

RUFUS'S EYES
GLOWED RED AS
HE GROWLED,
AND REALIZING
HER MISTAKE, THE
COYOTE SAID,
"NOW SEE, IF YOU
STRIKE BACK
AREN'T YOU JUST
PERPETUATING
THE CYCLE OF
VIOLENCE?"

END!





DO YOU THINK WE INVITED OVER
TOO MANY ANIMALS?

NAAAAH

OOPS, SORRY

NO
PROBLEM,
BUDDY!

UH,
SOMETHING
WRONG?

BOMP

OH MY SISTER
JUST HAD HER LITTER
SO WE NEED TO MAKE
ROOM FOR LIKE
FOUR MORE SPOTS

I
COUNTED
FIVE

CONGRATS,
BUT YOU SHOULD
DECLARE WHO THE DAD
IS BEFORE INK DECIDES
IT'S ANOTHER MIRACULOUS
CONCEPTION

WAIT,
WOULDN'T THAT
MEAN SHE THINKS
THAT I'M THE--
UHHH....

SO WHAT'S
BOTHERING YOU?
PEANUT LIKES HER

PEANUT LIKES
EVERYONE



SW
P

I DUNNO, IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'D BE
DICTATING TO PEANUT WHAT IT IS HE
WANTS RATHER THAN LETTING HIM
DECIDE FOR HIMSELF



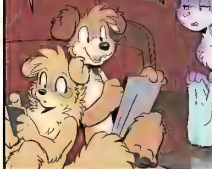
AND THEN
WE'LL CUDDLE
FOR EXACTLY
FIFTEEN MINUTES

UH-HUH

AND THEN
WE'LL HAVE
TWO HOURS TO
SIT AROUND AND
TALK ABOUT
OUR FEELINGS

OKAY!

TAROT, CAN
WE SPEAK WITH
YOU A MINUTE?







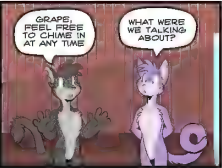
THE KEY HERE IS TO NOT MASK
YOUR NEEDS JUST BECAUSE YOU
THINK YOUR PARTNER OR OTHERS
EXPECT IT FROM YOU



FOR INSTANCE, GRAPE WANTS HUGE
BUFF WEREWOLF-SLASH-WERETIGER
LOVERS AND I DON'T BEGRUDGE
HER THAT



AND IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO GET
OVER MY PERSONAL JEALOUSY, BUT
WE'RE BETTER FOR IT! IF IT MAKES
HER HAPPY, I'M HAPPY FOR HER!



GRAPE,
FEEL FREE
TO CHIME IN
AT ANY TIME

WHAT WERE
WE TALKING
ABOUT?



SO, LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION—
WHAT DO YOU WANT OUT OF YOUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH TAROT?

A GIRLFRIEND



NO FILTERS! BE DEMANDING!

I GUESS I WANT TAROT TO BE MORE
INTERESTED IN MY HOBBIES, DEFEND
ME FROM ANNOYING PETS, AND MAKE
FEWER DEMANDS OF ME



GOOD,
NOW WE'RE--

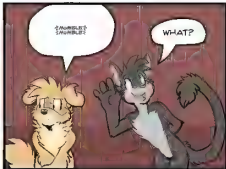
KINDA
LIKE YOU,
I GUESS!



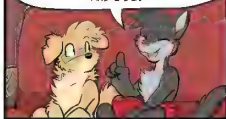
WHEN DO I MAKE DEMANDS OF YOU!

JUST NOW WHEN YOU SAID
WE'D SPEND TWO HOURS
TALKING ABOUT OUR
FEELINGS

WE'RE
DOING
THAT NOW!



YOU DON'T RULE JEALOUSY BY
BEING CONTROLLING, BUT THROUGH
UNDERSTANDING. YOU GOTTA REALLY
KNOW ONE ANOTHER, LIKE GRAPE
AND I DO!



MAYBE WHAT WE NEED HERE IS
A ROLEPLAY DEMONSTRATION. I WILL
BE YOU, AND PEANUT WILL BE PEANUT

WOO,
I GET TO
BE ME!



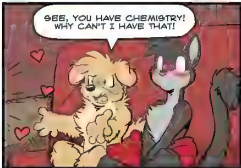
HELLO PEANUT, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

MAKING RUFUS: THE DOG WHO
LIVED BUT THEN DIED COMICS

SOUNDS INTERESTING,
TELL ME MORE



SEE, YOU HAVE CHEMISTRY!
WHY CAN'T I HAVE THAT!





LOOK, THE POINT IS, WE ARE FINE WITH GRAPE AND PEANUT BEING MUSHY WITH EACH OTHER CAUSE WE DO LOVE THEM AND TRUST THEM AND WANT THEM TO BE HAPPY, RIGHT?

WELL, YEAH, BUT HOW WOULD YOU TRANSLATE THAT INTO PEANUT BEING HAPPY WITH YOU?



HEY PEANUT, THIS "YOU AND GRAPE BEING MUSHY" BUSINESS SOUNDS INTERESTING, TELL ME MORE!

REALLY?



I...GUESS THAT'S A SOLUTION?



WAIT A MINUTE!
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY
SENSE! YOU CAN'T BUILD A
RELATIONSHIP BASED ON SOME
MUTUAL ROMANTIC INTEREST
IN A THIRD PARTY!



HEY SPEAKING OF,
DID YOU WANT TO GET
STARTED ON THAT SAUCY
PRIDELANDS RPG
SESSION WE'VE BEEN
PLANNING

WELL DUH,
I THOUGHT YOU'D
NEVER ASK!

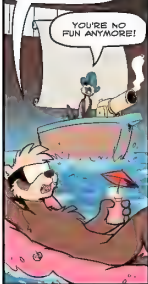


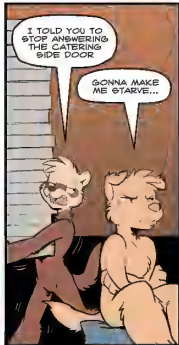
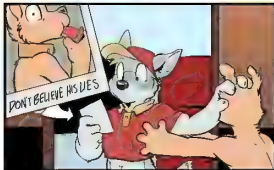
CANNONBALL!



PLEASE TAMP DOWN
YOUR SHENANIGANS
FOR THE SAKE OF
THE NORMALS

YOU'RE NO
FUN ANYMORE!





YOU KNOW, KEENE, ACTUALLY GIVING
SOMETHING TO POOR ANIMALS THAT
THEY CAN USE IS A NEW TURN FOR YOU,
EVEN IF THE NEEDLESS EXTRAVAGANCE
IS ENTIRELY IN-CHARACTER



THE WEIRD THING IS THIS PLACE HASN'T
EVEN COST ALL THAT MUCH TO RUN!
WELL, MORE MONEY THAN YOU'LL EVER
SEE IN A LIFETIME BUT STILL PITTANCE
FOR ME!



MAYBE THIS COULD BE A PERMANENT
FIXTURE! A MONUMENT TO ALL ANIMAL-
KIND! TO SPIT IN THE FACE OF
ECONOMICS AND SAY, YES, WE CAN
ALL HAVE NICE THINGS!



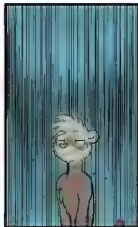
SOUNDS
PRETTY NICE

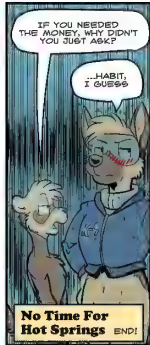
MAYBE, BUT I'LL
HAVE TO RUN IT
THROUGH MY
SPEECH WRITER



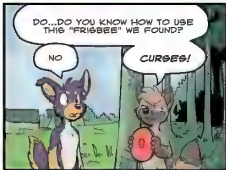


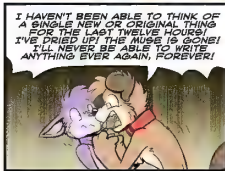


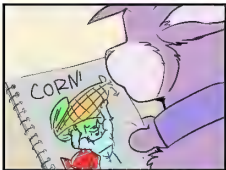


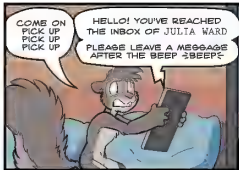










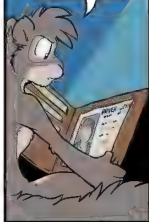




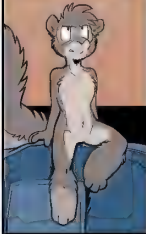
OKAY, SO I'M STILL
A HUMAN ON MY DRIVER'S
LICENSE, SO I DIDN'T
RETROACTIVELY
BECOME A SQUIRREL...

I DON'T THINK
I ANGERED ANY WITCHES

OR WAS NEAR ANY
MUTAGEN



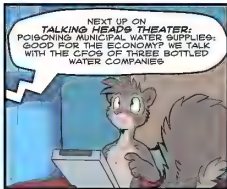
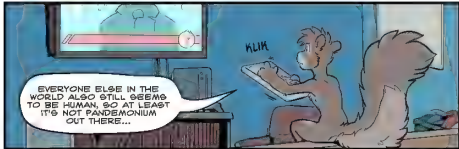
DANGIT,
HOW ARE YOU
SUPPOSED TO LOGIC
YOUR WAY THROUGH
SOMETHING WITH **NO**
PRECEDENT?

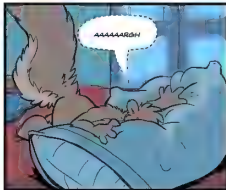


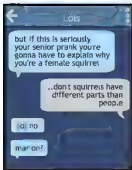
AHA! WE JUST
FINISHED STUDYING
METAMORPHOSIS
IN CLASS!

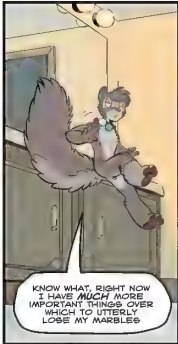
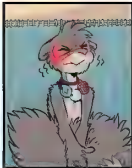
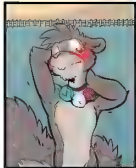
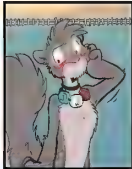
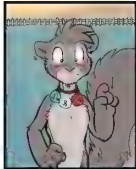
I'LL JUST READ
THE END AND LEARN
HOW GREGOR SAMSA
CHANGED BACK
TO NORMAL!



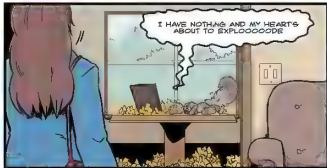








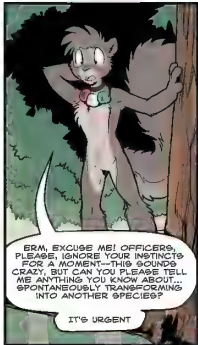


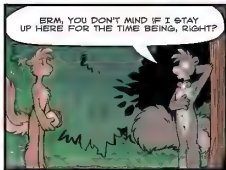
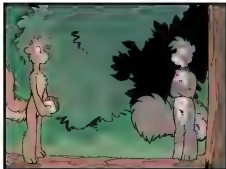














HELLO BOYS AND GHOULS! WE'LL BE BACK WITH MORE "MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE SQUIRREL". BUT FIRST, WE WANTED TO TAKE TIME AND ANSWER READER MAIL

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WE HAD A MAILBOX, BUT THERE YOU GO

"DEAR SPOT, I DON'T LIKE THAT A THING HAPPENED. PLEASE REVERSE TIME AND MAKE IT SOMETHING MORE AMENABLE TO ME. YOURS, LARRY."

WELL, LARRY. I WOULD **LOVE** TO GO BACK IN TIME AND FIX YOUR FIRST WORLD PROBLEM, BUT THE FACT IS I'VE GONE BACK IN TIME SO MUCH TO FIX SO MANY THINGS, IT NOW RESULTS IN VASTLY DIMINISHING RETURNS

THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT YOU ARE EXPERIENCING NOW IS THE MATHEMATICAL APPROXIMATION OF THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS

SORRY! HOPE THAT SHUTS YOU UP

"DEAR SPOT, I DON'T BELIEVE
THESE LETTERS ARE REAL. MOST SINCERELY,
LARS ACTUALLY"



WELL, LARS, I DON'T BELIEVE **YOU** ARE REAL.
IN FACT, I JUST WENT BACK IN TIME TO
ENSURE YOU DON'T EXIST AND THIS LETTER IS
NOW MADE-UP. THANKS FOR WRITING!



"DEAR SPOT, AREN'T THESE LETTERS JUST
A PLOY TO FILL PAGE SPACE WITHOUT PUTTING
IN ANY EFFORT WHAT'S OVER? —JIMMY"



HA HA
HA HA HA!



YES



**NEXT TIME:
LETTERS EXPLODE!**



FALG, THE SQUIREL IS TALKING TO US

UH, YEAH! I THOUGHT YOU
FOREST ANIMALS TALKED
TO EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME



OH WE DO, JUST NOT USUALLY WITH...
YOU KNOW...

WHAT? YOU GUYS
AREN'T GONNA EAT ME



OH! WELL SMARTY SQUIREL, IF
THAT IS YOUR REAL NAME, RACCOONS
HAPPEN TO BE **NOMNIVORES**--WE'LL
EAT ANYTHING

ESPECIALLY ME!



TEN SECONDS AGO YOU WERE WORRIED
YOU MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY EAT
SOMETHING THAT'S NOT DESSERT

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW SQUIREL,
DOESN'T TASTE LIKE CANDY?
YOU SOME KINDA **SQUIREL**
CANNIBAL?



LISTEN, I'VE HAD A ROUGH DAY AND I AM COMPLETELY OUT OF IDEAS-- I KNOW IT'S NOT THE BUSINESS OF TWO RACCOONS, BUT I'M NOT VERY ADEPT AT SCROUNGING AND I'M STARVING

CAN I COME WITH YOU?

AW FALS, MAYBE WE SHOULD HELP HER

WHAT! NO! SCROUNGING IS OUR SPECIALITY, "LET THEM EAT NUTS!"

I CAN'T

WHY NOT?

THIS IS STUPID, BUT I HAVE A TREE NUT ALLERGY AND I REALLY DON'T WANT TO TEST AND SEE IF IT'S STILL IN EFFECT

FALS, WHAT'S AN ALLERGY?

THAT MEANS IF SHE EATS A NUT, IT URGES AN OWL TO COME EAT HER

SURE, LET'S GO WITH THAT

HUMANS ARE SUSPICIOUS OF
RACCOONS PEEPING IN THEIR WINDOWS,
BUT THEY NEVER PAY ATTENTION
TO SQUIRRELS!

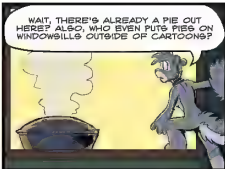
THIS FEELS WRONG,
MRS. MCGILLICUDDY
USED TO BABYSIT ME

SHE SAT ON YOU
AS A BABY?! THE
FIEND!

THAT IS
EXACTLY HOW
I EXPECTED YOU
TO UNDERSTAND
THAT



WAIT, THERE'S ALREADY A PIE OUT
HERE? ALSO, WHO EVEN PUTS PIES ON
WINDOWSILLS OUTSIDE OF CARTOONS?

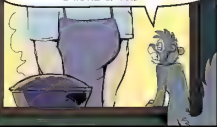


SOME OF
US ARE JUST
OLD-FASHIONED
I GUESS

AAAAAH!!



MRS. MCGILLICUDDY! I'M UH, NOT
HERE TO STEAL ANYTHING, I JUST--WELL
SEE THERE'S THIS--THIS MORNING
I WOKE UP AND--



I KNOW, FALSTAFF AND TRUCK ARE
WAITING TO STEAL THIS PIE, CAN YOU
MAKE SURE IT GETS DOWN TO THEM
AFTER IT COOLS? DON'T WANT THEM TO
BURN THEIR PAWS AGAIN



HAHA
HAHA!
ANOTHER
SUCCESSFUL
HEIST!

THANKS
MRS. MCGILLICUDDY!

BE SURE
TO SHARE!





HUH, DIDN'T I SEE
THIS PLACE ON HGTV?



WE HAVE
RETURNED
WITH FOOD!

MCBILICUDDY
GAVE YOU
ANOTHER
PIE. HUH?

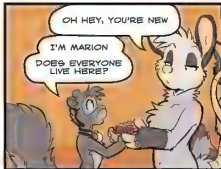


NO, WE
STOLE IT

UH HUH, THEN HOW COME YOU ALWAYS
RETURN THE PAN... I THOUGHT YOU
LIKED SHINIES



OBSOULETLY,
IF SHE RAN OUT
OF PANS, SHE
COULDN'T EXACTLY
MAKE MORE PIES
FOR US TO STEAL,
COULD SHE?









THIS UPLIFT-THE-FERALS® THING YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT SOUNDS A LOT LIKE THE *OPENER OF WAYS* STUFF

THE *EQUAL CHANCE PROGRAM* IS NOT RELIGIOUS



YEAH, AND IF IT'S SO GREAT, WHY HAVEN'T YOU LEFT TO GO JOIN IT?

I HAVE MY REASONS

WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY EVERYONE HERE IS SO RESISTANT TO THE IDEA



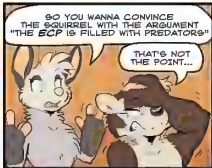
WELL, EVER SINCE THE WOLVES LEFT, AND THEN THE MOUNTAIN LION LEFT, IT'S BEEN PRETTY NICE AROUND HERE

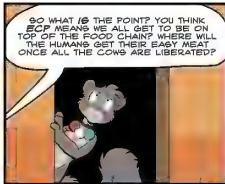
YEAH BUT THINK ABOUT IT-- THEY WERE ALL ON TOP, BUT ALL JOINED THE *ECP* FIRST CHANCE THEY GOT

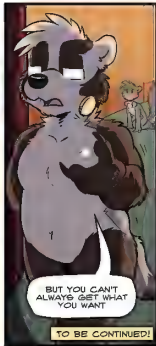


SO YOU WANNA CONVINCE THE SQUIRREL WITH THE ARGUMENT "THE *ECP* IS FILLED WITH PREDATORS?"

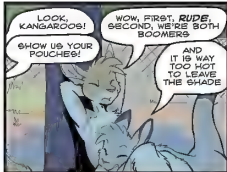
THAT'S NOT THE POINT...











WELL, FOR A FEW HOURS, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST COMMITTING TO THE BIT. BUT THEN HE DIDN'T SHOW UP TO SCHOOL AT ALL. I CALLED HIS MOM AND SHE SAID SHE THOUGHT HE WAS AT MY PLACE. THEN HE DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR CURFEW. HIS PHONE WAS STILL IN HIS BEDROOM AND HIS CAR WAS STILL IN THE DRIVEWAY

Summary

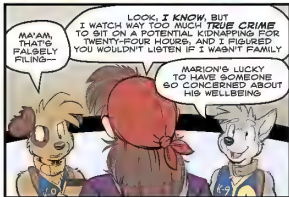
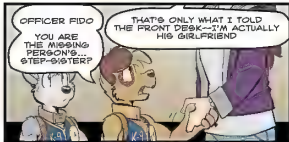
My Life As a Teenage Squirrel, part 3

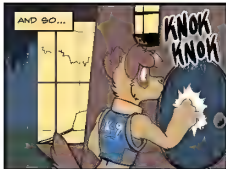
SO THIS SQUIRREL YOU MENTIONED-- DID IT HAVE ANY DISTINGUISHING FEATURES?

UM, SHE WAS GRAY-ISH, AND THE PICTURE--OH! THE PICTURE'S STILL ON MY PHONE

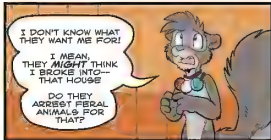
A PICTURE ON A PHONE? YOU'LL HAVE TO PRINT THIS OUT, WE'RE NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THIS

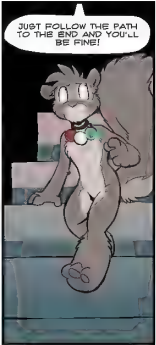
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE THE REPORT MYSELF











JUST FOLLOW THE PATH
TO THE END AND YOU'LL
BE FINE!



WELCOME
TO THE
UNDER
WORLD!

AAAAH!



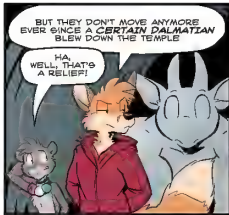
I'LL BE
YOUR HOST!
DON'T STRAY
INTO THE
DARKNESS
OR YOU'RE
LIKELY TO
BE EATEN
BY A GRUE

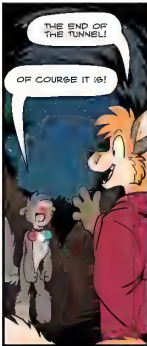
OH, I GET IT, LIKE
THE OLD COMPUTER
GAME "ZORK"

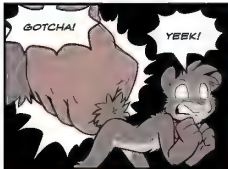
PHEW



WHAT'S
A "ZORK"?









TALK! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO WITH THIS? WHERE'S MARION?

I AM MARION!

PLOMP



YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT?

NO! THE ENTIRE PROBLEM IS THAT IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! HOW WOULD I EVEN OFFER PROOF?



TELL ME SOMETHING ONLY I'D--

THE TIME IN SIXTH GRADE WHEN THE BOLT ON THE SCHOOL RESTROOM FAILED AND I TRIED TO GET OUT BY THROWING A LARGE TRASH BIN AT THE DOOR BUT IT BOUNCED BACK AND HIT ME IN THE HEAD AND I WOKE UP FOUR HOURS LATER AND THE SCHOOL JANITOR FOUND ME AND THOUGHT I WAS DOING DRUGS AND I WAS SO EMBARRASSED I TOLD HIM I WAS AND I HAD TO GO TO COUNSELING FOR SIX MONTHS



...MARION TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT

YOU SEE?

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME!
HOW *COULD* YOU BELIEVE ME? THIS
ISN'T SOME SCIENCE FICTION SHORT,
THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN! THEY JUST
THINK I'M SOME DUMB SQUIRREL
MAKING IT ALL UP FOR ATTENTION!

HOW THE HECK DO I GET SOMEONE
RATIONAL LIKE YOU TO BELIEVE IN
SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE?! HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO GET BACK TO NORMAL
WHEN NOBODY LISTENS?!

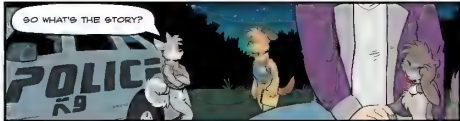
buh
oohuh
SOB

ohuhuhuh
SOB
ghyk
gub
whimper

I DON'T KNOW
I GUESS...
SOMEONE JUST HAS
TO LISTEN

SERIOUSLY
THIS HAD BETTER
NOT END UP ON
INSTAGRAM

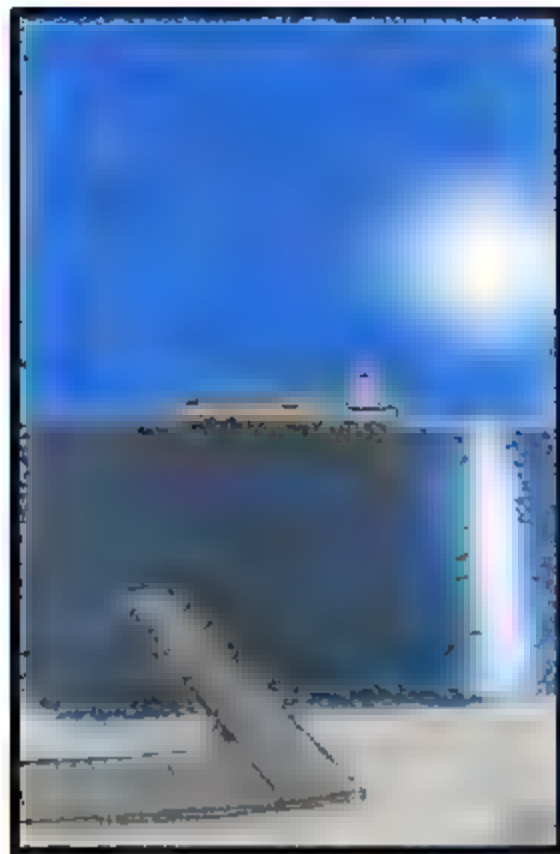
I SWEAR
I WILL
BITE YOUR
EARLOBES











Guest strip by dryideabat



Housepets! By Rick Griffin









HEY PEANUT, WHAT
ARE YOU UP TO?



FINALLY FINISHED MY ULTIMATE
"THE ADVENTURE OF SPOT" COMIC
AFTER MANY SLEEPLESS NIGHTS.



NOW TO SEND IT TO MY FAVORITE WEBCOMIC
ARTIST FOR HIS SPECIAL FAN COMIC EVENT AND
SPOT WILL BE FAMOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD!!!



IS THIS THE SAME ARTIST
YOU MENTIONED LAST WEEK?
I THOUGHT THE DEADLINE
WAS YESTERDAY?

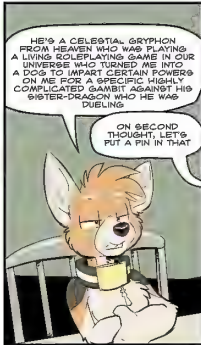


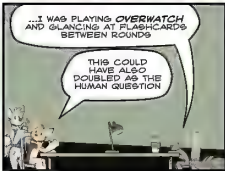
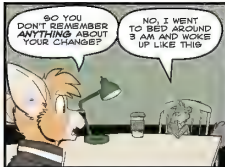
MAN THAT'S SUCKS.
JUST SEND IT PEANUT,
HOPEFULLY HE'LL SEE IT.



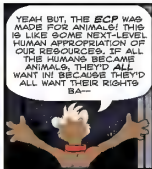
WAIT, WHAT...

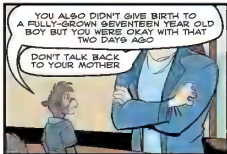
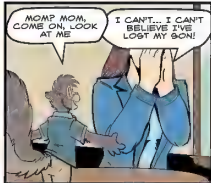
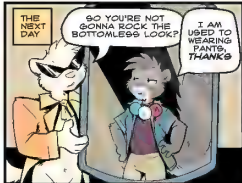












PREY SPECIES BEING INTRODUCED
INTO THE ECP IS GOING TO BE AN
IMPORTANT POINT GOING FORWARD

HOW DO YOU WANT US
TO APPROACH THIS, THEN?



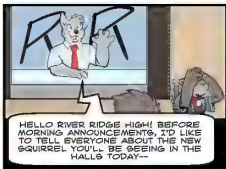
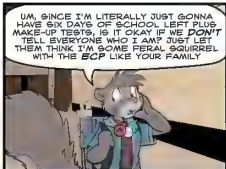
JUST THINK OF MARION LIKE YOU DO ME!
YOU WOULDN'T EAT ME, RIGHT?

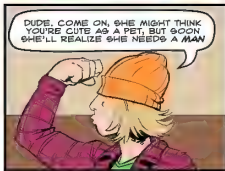
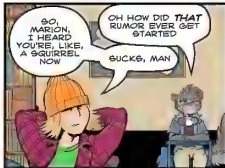


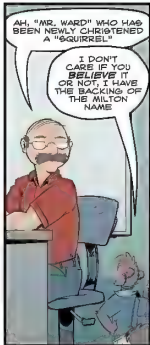
RIGHT?

OH!
I'M SORRY, I THOUGHT
THAT WAS A RHETORICAL
QUESTION

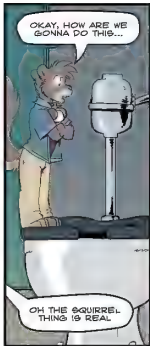


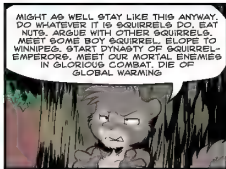
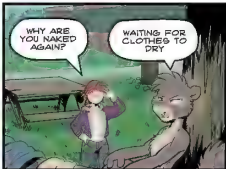














AND DON'T TELL ME IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE TROUBLE COPING! NOBODY CAN FIT A HUMAN-TURNED-SQUIRREL IN THEIR WORLD! I'M AN ANOMALY! A CIRCUS SIDESHOW! THE ONLY OTHER PEOPLE THIS HAPPENED TO ARE LIVING AS ANIMALS RIGHT NOW!



WAIT... PEOPLE, PLURAL? I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST KING

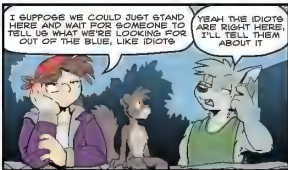
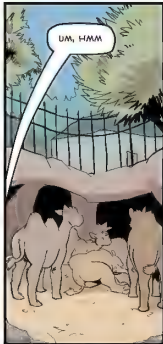
NO, LANA TOLD ME A HUMAN TURNED INTO A CAMEL A WHILE BACK; HE'S LIVING AT THE ZOO NOW



OKAY, GET IN MY BAG, WE'RE GOING TO THE ZOO BEFORE IT CLOSSES



LOIS, I KNOW YOU WANT ME TO FIND A PLACE I CAN BE HAPPY, BUT I DON'T THINK THE ZOO IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SQUIRRELS...



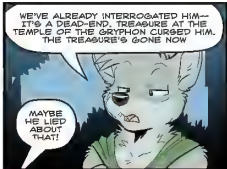
LANA ASKS WHY YOU'RE NOT IN SCHOOL

BECAUSE
I WANT TO KNOW
HOW THE CAMEL
BECAME EX-HUMAN!
ORIENTATION KINDA
LEFT THAT
PART OUT!



WE'VE ALREADY INTERROGATED HIM--
IT'S A DEAD-END. TREASURE AT THE
TEMPLE OF THE GRYPHON CURSED HIM.
THE TREASURE'S GONE NOW

MAYBE
HE LIED
ABOUT
THAT!



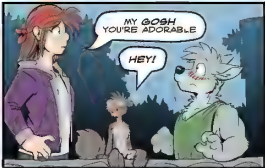
WHAT'S A SQUIRREL GONNA GET
OUT OF A CRIMINAL THAT A PACK
OF WOLVES CAN'T?

LOIS, THIS WAS
YOUR IDEA, TALK
SOME SENSE
INTO HIM!

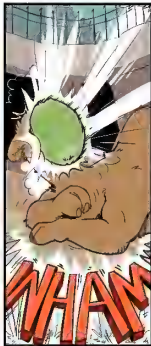
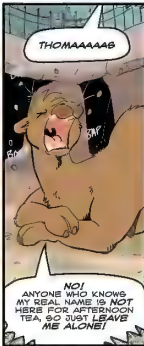
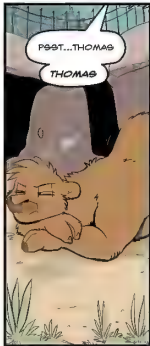


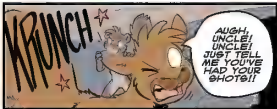
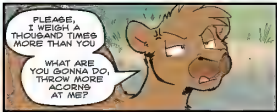
MY GOSH
YOU'RE ADORABLE

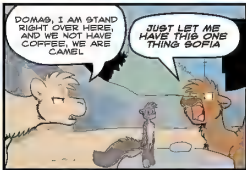
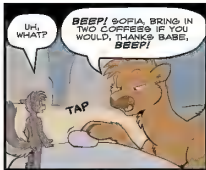
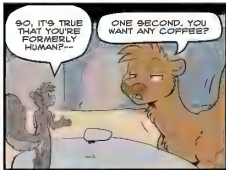
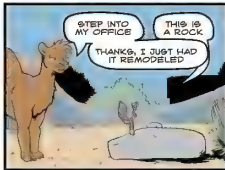
HEY!

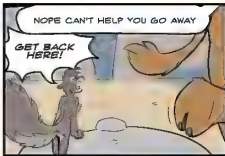
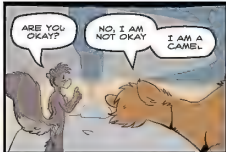


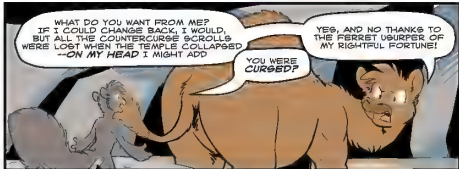








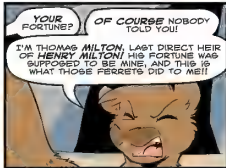




WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
IF I COULD CHANGE BACK, I WOULD,
BUT ALL THE COUNTERCURSE SCROLLS
WERE LOST WHEN THE TEMPLE COLLAPSED
--ON MY HEAD I MIGHT ADD

YES, AND NO THANKS TO
THE FERRET USURPER OF
MY RIGHTFUL FORTUNE!

YOU WERE
CURSED?



YOUR
FORTUNE?

OF COURSE NOBODY
TOLD YOU!

I'M THOMAS MILTON, LAST DIRECT HEIR
OF HENRY MILTON! HIS FORTUNE WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE MINE, AND THIS IS
WHAT THOSE FERRETS DID TO ME!!



SO IT WAS
THE MILTON FERRETS
WHO CURSED YOU?

DIDN'T YOU HEAR?
THEY HAVE--OR HAD--
A SOURCE OF **SECRET
MAGIC POWERS** RIGHT IN
THEIR BACKYARD

I'M NOT SURPRISED THEY
DIDN'T TELL YOU, THEY LIKELY
WANTED SOME WAY TO BOLSTER
THEIR RANKS IN THEIR STUPID
LITTLE **SCP PROJECT**

THEY APPROACHED YOU
ABOUT THAT, DIDN'T THEY?

WELL
YEAH,
BUT--

YES, I CAN SEE IT NOW--EQUALITY FOR ANIMALS,
BY TURNING HUMANS **INTO** ANIMALS. I HONESTLY
WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF WE SAW A SUDDEN
UPTICK IN THESE MYSTERIOUS TRANSFORMATIONS

THAT SOUNDS
INCREDIBLY
CONVOLUTED
AND COSTLY

YOU JUST HAVEN'T SEEN
THE MANOR'S **CHOCOLATE
PUDDING ABATEMENT
BUDGET**

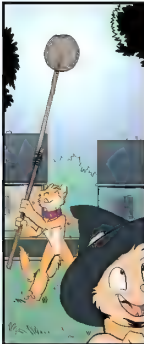
I HAVE,
OH, I HAVE



TRICK-OR-TREAT!

IT'S 2 IN
THE AFTERNOON
OF OCTOBER 30TH

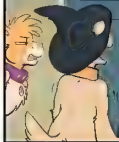
NO, IT IS *CLEARLY*
THE LATE EVENING, AS
YOU CAN PERCEIVE BY
THE LACK OF SUN



CLACK

WAIT! I DIDN'T
GET TO MY "IT'S
WITCHCRAFT AND
THEREFORE
HALLOWEEN"
EXPLANATION!

TIGER, IF THE
FOURTEENTH
HOUSE DIDN'T
BUY IT...



WHAT'D YOU DO?!
WHAT'D YOU DO

I DIDN'T
DO ANYTHING!



A LIKELY STORY... YOU'RE HERE ON
KEENE'S BEHALF! TRANSFORMING
PEOPLE INTO ANIMALS! TELL ME HOW
YOU'RE DOING IT!



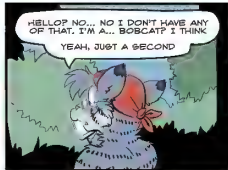
DON'T PIN THIS ON ME,
I'M JUST AS FREAKED
OUT AS YOU!

YOU'RE
CALLING
US FREAKS
NOW HUH?!

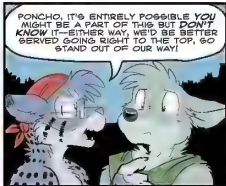
GUYS SERIOUSLY!

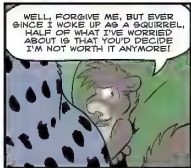
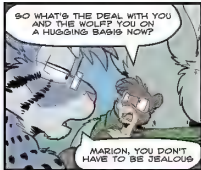




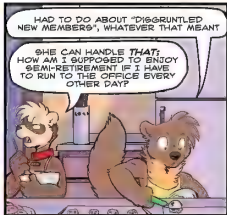
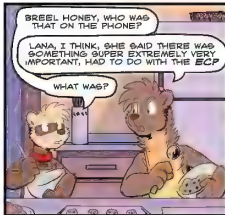


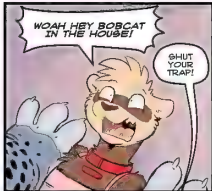


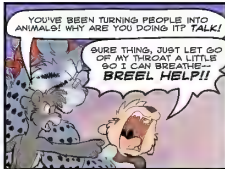


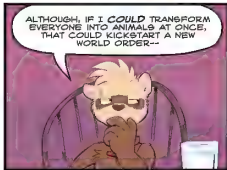


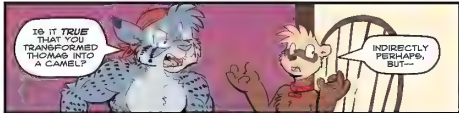






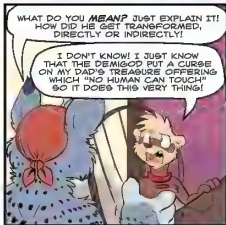






IS IT TRUE
THAT YOU
TRANSFORMED
THOMAS INTO
A CAMEL?

INDIRECTLY
PERHAPS,
BUT---



WHAT DO YOU *MEAN*? JUST EXPLAIN IT!
HOW DID HE GET TRANSFORMED,
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY!

I DON'T KNOW! I JUST KNOW
THAT THE DEMIGOD PUT A CURSE
ON MY DAD'S TREASURE OFFERING
WHICH "NO HUMAN CAN TOUCH"
SO IT DOES THIS VERY THING!



SO THERE'S *DEMIGODS* IN THIS NOW,
YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT?

LOIS, EVERYTHING ABOUT
OUR PREDICAMENT VIOLATES
EVERY KNOWN LAW OF PHYSICS
SO I THINK WE CAN AFFORD
TO SUSPEND DISBELIEF
A LITTLE

THE DEMIGOD PROMISED MY DAD HE'D, SOMEHOW, MAKE THE WORLD EQUAL BETWEEN HUMANS AND ANIMALS. I THINK **THIS** WAS WHAT HE WOULD HAVE DONE, TURNING HUMANS INTO ANIMALS ON THE SPOT. SABRINA WARNED ME THAT'D CREATE CHAOS, WHICH...IT KINDA DOES



SO THIS IS THE DEMIGOD'S DOING?

NO, THE DEMIGODS ARE GONE WELL... EXCEPT FOR KITSUNE, BUT HE'S NOT GONNA BE HELPF--

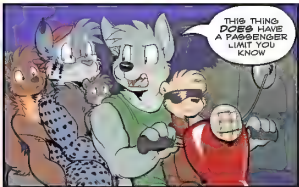


YOU MEAN WE CAN GO MEET A REAL LIVE MYTHOLOGICAL KITSUNE RIGHT NOW?

UH...YES?



THIS THING **DOES** HAVE A PASSENGER LIMIT YOU KNOW



HUH,
WEIRD

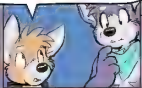
WHAT IS?

KEENE JUST PULLED UP ON
A SCOOTER, AND... I THINK THAT'S
MARION WITH HIM? I DON'T
RECOGNIZE THE BOBCAT



ARE THEY GONNA MOVE THE NEW *ECP*
MEMBERS IN HERE?

NO, THIS HOUSE IS FULL UP AND
THEY'VE ALREADY SLATED A NEW
BOARDING HOUSE. SO WHY WOULD
THEY COME *HERE*?



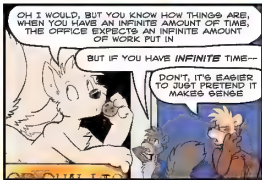
OH HEY, THAT'S
PROBABLY FOR ME!



HEY KING, WOW YOU PACK QUICKLY

I'VE BEEN LEAVING
LUGGAGE BY THE DOOR
SEE YOU IN A MONTH







SO WHAT CAN
I DO YOU FOR?

IF YOU'RE ALL-
POWERFUL, REVERSING
WHATEVER CURSE THIS
IS WOULD BE A START

NO CAN DO
YOU FOR

WHY
NOT?!



YOU KNOW HOW IT IS,
YOU START SOLVING
PROBLEMS FOR MORTALS
AND THEN THEY CLAMOR
FOR YOU TO JUST GRANT
HEAVEN ON EARTH, WHICH
KINDA DEFEATS THE
POINT OF THERE *BEING*
AN EARTH

EARTH IS
WHERE ALL THE
INTERESTING IDEAS
COME FROM! YOU THINK
I'D BE A KITSUNE WITHOUT
THE CONTEXT OF SOME
ANCIENT JAPANESE GUY
THEORIZING THAT FOXES
WERE MAGIC(K)AL?



SO THE MEANING
OF LIFE IS THAT WE'RE
JUST SOME KINDA
THOUGHT MINE FOR
THE GODS?

OH HEAVENS
NO, I'M VASTLY
OVERSIMPLIFYING

...BUT THAT IS
AN INTERESTING
IDEA...





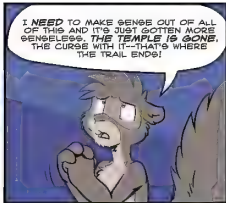


CAN'T YOU JUST TELL US?

IT'S NOT
GONNA HELP
WITH WHAT
YOU REALLY
NEED~

WHAT I
NEED IS
TO KNOW!

BOOP!



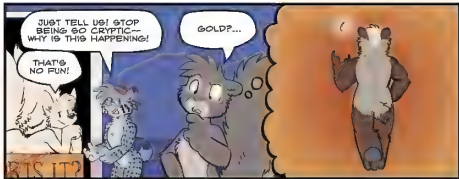
I **NEED** TO MAKE SENSE OUT OF ALL
OF THIS AND IT'S JUST GOTTEN MORE
SENSELESS. **THE TEMPLE IS GONE,**
THE CURSE WITH IT--THAT'S WHERE
THE TRAIL ENDS!

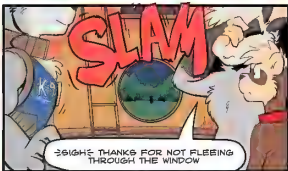


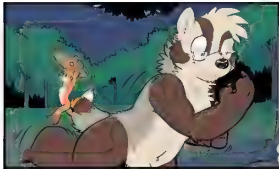
IN TIMES
LIKE THESE,
I THINK ON THE
WORDS OF A GOOD
FRIEND OF MINE:
"YOU BLIND FOOLS!
WHICH IS GREATER:
THE GOLD, OR
THE TEMPLE THAT
MAKES THE GOLD
SACRED?"



PLEASE
DON'T QUOTE
RELIGIOUS TEXT,
THAT JUST GAVE
ME MENTAL
WHIPLASH





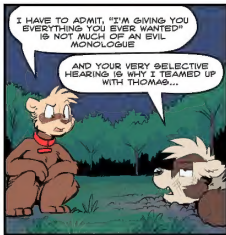


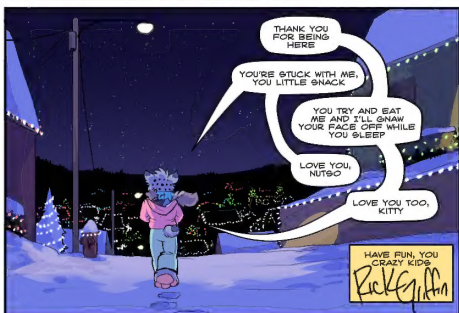
W
A
M



OH, THAT WAS A SWEET TACKLE, FOX!
KEVIN'S GONNA BE MAD HE MISSED THIS

I'M GLAD I COULD BE
ENTERTAINMENT FOR YOU









ARTWORK BY
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